Scholars World
INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEWED REFEREED MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY REASERCH
Impact Factor: 4.433
Online ISSN: 2320-3145, Print ISSN: 2319-5789

Higher Educations Evolving Key Role in Sustainable Development in Nashik City

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Abstract:

The development of human capital is crucial and necessary since it drives the nation to the envisioned vision and mission. Without a quality human capital, a nation will be weak due to want of human factor that is capable of embarking on new initiatives and perspectives. A quality human capital comes from a quality education process. A carefully designed and well-planned education system is vital in developing such human capital. The SDGs offer a practical framework for this essential alignment. This paper discusses higher education for urban area sustainability and also sustainability in higher education along with brief discussion of Nashik city higher education sector.

Keywords: Higher education, human capital, India, sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION:

Human resources, particularly quality human resources, are considered one of the most important resources for the social and economic development of a country. Amartya Sens say Its urges us to expand real freedoms the substantive capabilities individuals need to lead lives they value. This means ensuring that our research, partnerships, and education systems don't merely deliver content, but actively enable agency, especially within historically-marginalized communities. The development of human capital is crucial and necessary since it drives the nation to the envisioned vision and mission. Without this, a nation will be weak due to want of human factor that is capable of embarking on new initiatives and perspectives. Therefore, the quality human capital is the most valuable asset of the country. Development of human capital and mind shift of the citizens is one big challenge. To become a knowledgeable-based economy and a sustainable country, the development of quality human capital should be a priority. In the context of a global world, a high human capital is a necessity and not a luxury.

The importance of higher education for sustainability:

Academic institutes play a pivotal role as a fundamental urban service, fostering the overall development and prosperity of a city. These institutions serve as educational and skill development hubs, imparting knowledge and equipping individuals to contribute to a skilled workforce. Academic institutes enhance human capital development by nurturing young minds and promoting intellectual growth, bolstering the city's economic productivity. Notably, their significance extends beyond education, as they act as powerful equalizers, providing opportunities for social mobility and inclusivity, transcending socio-economic barriers and fostering a cohesive community spirit. Moreover, the presence of reputable academic institutes attracts diverse talent and investments to the city, enriching it with cultural diversity and propelling global competitiveness. Through quality education, these institutes improve city residents' overall quality of life, fostering informed decision making, healthier lifestyles, and active civic participation, resulting in a thriving urban environment characterized by social responsibility and cooperation. This section delves into the critical importance of academic institutes as essential urban services, and analyses the distribution of the academic institutes, which is divided into two broad categories: schools and colleges.

Nashik city Education academic institutes:

Table 1.1: Distribution of Educational Institutes

Admin Wards	Kindergarten	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Colleges
Nashik East	19	12	9	5
Nashik West	15	3	24	21
Panchvati	23	16	36	16
Nashik Road	22	17	34	7
Satpur	17	17	20	4
New Nashik	21	23	10	6

The educational landscape in Nashik district varies across different administrative wards, as evident from the distribution of academic institutes and their input capacities. Nashik East ward showcases a balanced distribution of academic institutions across all levels of education. It comprises 19 Kindergartens, 12 Primary Schools, 9 Secondary Schools, and 5 Colleges. The ward's input capacity is notable, with the capacity to accommodate 4,218 Kindergartens, 6,684 Primary Schools, 5,319 Secondary Schools, and 12,625 Colleges, signifying its ability to cater to diverse educational needs. Nashik West ward has a higher concentration of Secondary Schools and Colleges. It encompasses 15 Kindergartens, 3 Primary Schools, 24 Secondary Schools, and 21 Colleges. The ward's input capacity reflects its potential, with 3,615 Kindergartens, 1,512 Primary Schools, 9,240 Secondary Schools, and 34,881 Colleges, highlighting its focus on higher education opportunities.

Panchvati ward emerges as an educationally rich area, boasting a significant number of academic institutes. It includes 23 Kindergartens, 16 Primary Schools, 36 Secondary Schools, and 16 Colleges. The ward's input capacity further strengthens its educational prowess, accommodating 3,615 Kindergartens, 1,512 Primary Schools, 9,240 Secondary Schools, and 34,881 Colleges. Nashik Road ward showcases a considerable presence of academic institutions, comprising 22 Kindergartens, 17 Primary Schools, 34 Secondary Schools, and 7 Colleges. Its input capacity also indicates its capacity to cater to educational demands, accommodating 4,488 Kindergartens, 7,582 Primary Schools, 14,960 Secondary Schools, and 9,275 Colleges.

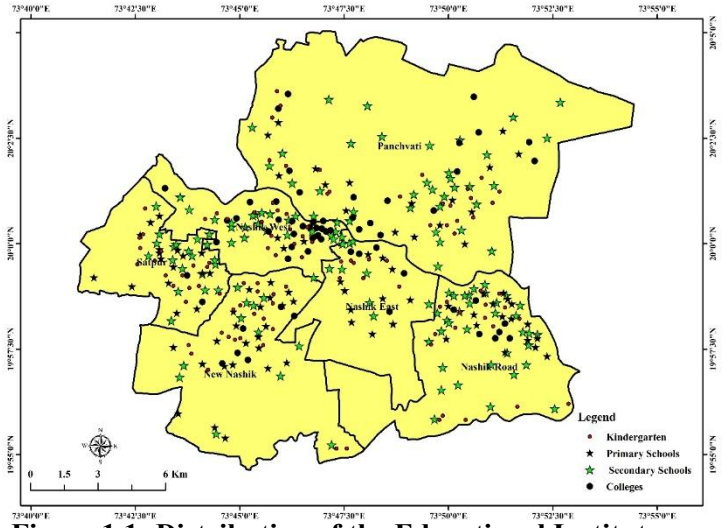

Figure 1.1: Distribution of the Educational Institutes

Satpur ward exhibits a relatively even distribution of academic institutes, encompassing 17 Kindergartens, 17 Primary Schools, 20 Secondary Schools, and 4 Colleges. Its input capacity aligns with its balanced distribution, accommodating 2,703 Kindergartens, 9,758 Primary Schools, 6,560 Secondary Schools, and 3,804 Colleges. New Nashik ward emphasizes early education, with a higher number of kindergartens (21) and Primary Schools (23). However, it has relatively fewer Secondary Schools (10) and Colleges (6). Its input capacity reflects this focus, accommodating 4,158 Kindergartens and 11,983 Primary Schools, but a relatively lower capacity of 3,580 Secondary Schools and 6,006 College.

Table 1.2: Distribution of the Students

Admin Wards	Kindergarten	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Colleges
Nashik East	4218	6684	5319	12625
Nashik West	3615	1512	9240	34881
Panchvati	6118	7184	15156	24336
Nashik Road	4488	7582	14960	9275
Satpur	2703	9758	6560	3804
New Nashik	4158	11983	3580	6006

Access and sustainable development:

According to UNESCO, education for sustainable development "empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future". It therefore involves making access to good-quality education available at every stage of life. More specifically, it involves educating students on the necessity of sustainable development by integrating sustainable development issues into all aspects of teaching, research and service. This means reorienting the education system at all levels to help people think and behave in ways that foster a more sustainable planet. In the current era, we face huge global problems (for example, the refugee crisis, global climate change, extreme poverty and illiteracy) and, presumably, these problems are best addressed through universal education and international cooperation.

Conclusion:

Higher education not only has a role to play in that effort but it also has the capacity to play a leading role. Inclusion is broadly defined by UNESCO as a process of addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all children, youth and adults through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities and reducing and eliminating exclusion within and from education". Equity is broadly defined as the fairness principle that every individual is entitled to just opportunity to access and participate in education. Equity therefore entails understanding student learning needs in order to mitigate obstacles to achieving student academic success.

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